Notes



IULY 28, 2019

Meeting Times

Sunday

Bible Class 9:30am

Worship 10:30am

Worship 6:00pm

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00pm

Ladies Bible Class will resume in September

"Christianity Could Not Possibly Be True" Eric Lyons

What did atheistic author Mike Davis allege was the "smoking gun" that proved to him once and for all that "Christianity could not possibly be true"? What "sealed the issue" and led him to believe "Jesus was wrong...and no more deserving of our belief than any other guy"? When did the case against the Bible and Christianity become "closed"? In chapter one of his book, The Atheist's Introduction to the New Testament: How the Bible Undermines the Basic Teachings of Christianity, Davis explained that Matthew 24:34 was the deciding factor.

In Matthew 24:34, Jesus stated: "Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place." According to Davis, since "Jesus tells his listeners that the judgment day will come before the generation he's speaking to passes away," and since that generation passed away 1,900 years ago, Jesus "could not have been divine" and the Bible is "untrustworthy" (2008, pp. 1-2).

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In actuality, what Davis confesses ultimately "proved" to him that the Bible and Jesus are unreliable is nothing more than a misinterpretation of Scripture. Jesus was not mistaken in His comments in Matthew 24:34—Jesus' generation did not pass away prior to witnessing the things Jesus foretold in Matthew 24:4-34. But, Jesus did not foretell in those verses what Davis assumes He foretold. Davis and many others believe that, prior to verse 34, Jesus was describing events that would take place shortly before Judgment Day at the end of time. The fact of the matter is, however, Jesus was prophesying about the coming destruction upon Jerusalem in A.D. 70 and not the final Judgment.

When the disciples went to show Jesus the temple buildings (Matthew 24:1), Jesus said, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down" (24:2). Later, when Jesus was on the Mount of Olives, the disciples asked Him three questions, beginning with "when will these things be?" (24:3). In verses 4-34, Jesus revealed several signs that would indicate Rome's destruction of Jerusalem, including the temple, was near. [NOTE: "The fall of the Hebrew system is set forth in the sort of apocalyptic nomenclature that is characteristic of Old Testament literature, e.g., when the prophets pictorially portray the overthrow of Jehovah's enemies (cf. Isaiah 13:10-11; 34:2ff; Ezekiel 32:7-8)" (Jackson, n.d.); cf. Matthew 24:29-31; see Miller, 2003.] In verses 35-51 (and all of chapter 25), Jesus answered the disciples' last two questions: "what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" (Matthew 24:3). To summarize, in Matthew 24:4-34 Jesus foretold of the coming destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70, while in 24:35-25:46 He commented on His future return and final Judgment of the world.

How sad it is that so many atheists and skeptics believe they have disproven the Bible and Christianity, when, in reality, they have simply twisted the biblical text to mean something God never intended (cf. 2 Peter 3:16). The fact that Mike Davis highlights Matthew 24:34 as the verse that once and for all proved to him the Bible is unreliable should tell us something about the extreme weakness of the skeptic's case against Christianity.

Order of Service

Opening Remarks Chris Windham Song Leader Don Petrosky, Jr.

Song #55 Beyond the Land of Parting
Song #383 Just over in the Glory Land

Prayer Sam Tarbet

Song #709 'Tis Midnight, and on Olive's Brow

Communion Jarrett Haydon

Luke Haydon

Song #22 All the Way My Savior Leads Me Song #438 My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

Sermon Clay Bond

Song #23 All Things Are Ready

Offering

Closing Remarks Chris Windham

Song #598 Standing on the Promises

Dismissal Prayer Russell Haydon

Upcoming Events:..

➤ June 5th – Aug. 28th Summer Series this week – Matthew Gibson – James

➤ Sept. 15th – 18th Gospel Meeting with Ken Hope

Wednesday Devotional

Summer Series June-August

...Prayer List...

Gay Kyle, Butch Crownover, Chris' cousin Tyler, Esmeralda Medina, Gary, Tom Barr, Don & Sherri Blackwell, Melvin Wright, Tammy Whitman, Sean Bothwell

Remember our college students who are away at

school: Jarrett & Luke Haydon

Shut-Ins: Robbi George

Attendance: Sunday AM: 27 PM: 31 Wednesday: 38 Contribution: \$